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Closure of ports.

* 1325 *Q.*—Sri N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of ports closed during 1954–55 in the Madras State; and

(*b*) the reasons for the same?

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) Fifteen, Sir.

" (*b*) There was little traffic at the ports and it was considered that they cannot be kept open on hopes of future trade."

Sri N. K. PALANISAMY :—" இந்த 'போர்ட்டுகள்', நிரந்தரமாக மூடப்பட்டு விட்டனவா? இன்னும் ஏதாவது 'போர்ட்டுகளை', மூடக்கூடிய உத்தேசம் சர்க்காருக்கு இருக்கிறதா ?"

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" For some years there was no traffic. Similar factors will have to be considered for closure of the ports. But if they should be reopened, a case must be made out for that purpose. We have then to get the concurrence of the Government of India for reopening these ports."

Sri K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" May I know the names of the ports which have been closed? "

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The following are the names of the ports which have been closed :—

Thirumalavasal, Mutupet, Vattanam, Pudupattinam, Theethandathanam, Devipattinam, Alagayankolam, Muthupettai, Chavakad, Tanur, Kappatta, Kottakkal, Muttankal, Chompayi and Pundiyangadi."

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Have the Government any scheme under the First Five-Year Plan or the Second Five-Year Plan for the development of ports in this State? "

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" We are considering the question of development of certain existing ports."

Sri S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—" Is this closure a temporary one or a permanent one? If it is a permanent closure, may I know whether steps have been taken to analyse the reasons for such closure? "

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" There was no traffic at all. That must have been the reason for the closure. The National Harbour Board have gone into the question and decided to close those ports."

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Sri S. Ramalingam :—" கனம் மந்திரி குறிப்பிட்ட 15 துறைமுகங்கள் மூடப்பட்டு விட்டனவாதலால், அங்கே வேலை செய்து கொண்டிருந்த தொழிலாளர்களுக்கும் வேலை இல்லாமல் போயிருக்கும். அவர்களுக்கு வேலை கொடுக்க அல்லது வேலை தேடித் தர ஏதாவது நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக் கொண்டிருக்கிறார்களா ? "

The Hon. Sri R. Shanmuga Rajeswara Sethupathi :—" A separate question may be given notice of."

Sri P. Selvaraj :—" Arising out of the answer that some ports are going to be expanded under the Second Five-Year Plan, may I know whether the port of Tuticorin is going to be expanded? "

The Hon. Sri R. Shanmuga Rajeswara Sethupathi :—" Yes, Sir. It may be expanded."

Sri P. Chellathurai :—" கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, தனுஷ்கோடி துறைமுகம் கடலினால் அரிக்கப்பட்டு வருவதற்கு அஞ்சி அதை வேறு இடத்திற்கு மாற்ற ஏற்பாடு செய்து கொண்டிருப்பதாகக் கேள்விப்படுகிறேன். அதனால் தொண்டித் துறைமுகத்தை விஸ்தரிக்க அரசாங்கம் ஏதாவது நடவடிக்கை எடுக்குமா என்று அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்."

Mr. Speaker :—" மூலக் கேள்விக்கும் இதற்கும் என்ன சம்பந்தம் இருக்கிறது ? "

Sri M. Jagannathan :—" May I know the extent of loss sustained by our State in its sea borne trade on account of the closure of these ports? "

The Hon. Sri R. Shanmuga Rajeswara Sethupathi :—" How can there be any loss if there is no traffic? I cannot understand the implication of the question."

* 1326 *Q*.—To be taken up on 15th March 1955.

Commonwealth Company, Kozhikode.

* 1327 *Q*.—**Sri K. P. Gopalan** : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Labour Officer, Malabar, conducted any conciliation on the decision of the management of the Commonwealth Company, Kozhikode, Malabar, to reduce the wages of the weavers and workers in the dyeing section by 27 per cent; and

(b) if so, with what result?

The Hon. Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam :—" (a) & (b) It has been reported that the management have not reduced the wages of the weavers and the workers in the dyeing section. So, the question of conducting conciliation does not arise."

Shifting of Sub-Registrar's office at Uliyil to Iritty.

* 1328 *Q*.—**Sri K. Madhavan Nambiar** : Will the Hon. the Minister for Registration, Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to shift the Sub-Registrar's office at Uliyil to Iritty and to start a fresh Sub-Registrar's office at Mattannur; and

(b) if so, the stage at which the matter stands now?